

Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
February 4, 2016

Attendees: Present were Council members Lynn Rothman (Chair), Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Cathy Reuscher and Mike Topping.

Approval of December Minutes: After a short discussion, Jack moved and Lynn seconded approval; approved.

Approval of January Minutes: After discussion, Jack moved approval; seconded by Lynn; approved.

Citizens Comments: None

Chair's Comments: Lynn advised the EAC that City Clerk Louise Kelchner has placed the necessary notice of time and place for EAC meetings in the Express Times. The Bethlehem Press is willing to include our regular meeting schedule in the meetings calendar section. They will also include an explanation of what we do, since it has not run before. Administrative Liaison and Parks Director, Ralph Carp, could not make this meeting but should be at our March meeting.

Board Comments: Mike reported on the "Bridge over the Lehigh" meeting and noted that many aspects of the bridge have to be worked out including its purpose (transportation, recreation, community development, etc.), location, need for separation from vehicle traffic (health issues), commercial connectivity, etc. Some assumed that a pedestrian sidewalk connected to the reconstructed Fahy Bridge might serve this same purpose. Meanwhile, Mike pointed out that the Lehigh is a living river and needs to be protected, along with its many inhabitants, during this process of developing a master plan for such a bridge.

Sub Committee Reports:

Energy: No report.

Green Committee: No report.

Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition: No report, next meeting will be in March.

Transportation: Lynn reported that during construction the Fahy Bridge will be open to pedestrian traffic 24/7, but that vehicle traffic will be closed from 9 PM to 5 AM, except for emergency vehicles.

External Committee Reports:

Zoning: No report.

City Planning: A new Fed-Ex distribution Center may be proposed for the LVIP area along 412 if their existing plans for land near the airport are turned down by the township involved.

City Council: Lynn reported that Cathy and Mike were reappointed to the EAC. She noted that Council was going to vote on whether to fund a study (\$90,000) for an intermodal at the

Riverport site, but many residents of the area objected to the idea because of noise, pollution, trash, and congestion concerns and the distance from Lehigh University, which is assumed to be a primary source of bus patrons. After a long discussion, including the idea to include other areas of the South Side in the study, the size of the intermodal and the location of possible City owned sites, City Council voted to table the vote.

New Business:

2016 Goals: Lynn advised that Ralph will be at our next meeting and that he may have some ideas on future goals for the EAC. Therefore, this discussion should be put off until then.

City Website: The Biographies for Fran, Cathy and Jack are needed for the website.

By-Laws: Lynn asked the EAC members to review the existing By-Laws and Article 146 which revised the original Act creating the EAC to see what revisions should be recommended to the By-Laws and/or Article 146.

EAC Sub Committees: There was a short discussion concerning the various EAC subcommittees and the need to identify them and their membership on the website. Cathy asked if anyone had studied the need for recycling containers in the downtown. Kalyna had looked into this and Cathy was advised to contact her about any results.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.